

Position Description

PD#

Replaces PD#

*Interdisciplinary
GS- -14

Installation: varies

Major Command: CE
Region: varies

Citation: OPM PCS Economist Series, GS-0110, Dec 64
OPM PCS Geography Series, GS-0150, Aug 63

PD Library PD: No
COREDOC PD: No

Classified By: Monroe A. Major, Senior Compensation Specialist, HQ USACE
Classification Date: 26 March 2001

FLSA: Exempt	Drug Test Required: No	CIPMS PD: No
Career Program: 18	Financial Disclosure Required: No	Acquisition Position: No
Functional Code:	Requires Access To Fire Arms: No	Interdisciplinary: Yes
Competitive Area: varies	Position Sensitivity: S/NC	Target Grade: FPL/14
Competitive Level: varies	Emergency Essential:	Career Ladder PD: No

*Interdisciplinary Position – Classifiable as any of the following:

Economist, GS-0110-14
Geographer, GS-0150-14
Social Scientist, GS-0101-14

SUPERVISORY CONTROLS:

Works under general administrative supervision of the Chief, Planning and Policy Division, who provides work assignments in terms of broad guidelines and program objectives. Incumbent accomplishes activities on own initiative, exercising independent judgment in the analysis and solution of complex problems and attainment of program goals. Evaluations, commitments, and conclusions reached within the incumbent's area of expertise serve as standards and guides for the Division. Recommendations and decisions are accepted as technically sound, with final approval subject to formal action of higher authority. Performance is evaluated in terms of program accomplishments, resourcefulness in solving technical and managerial problems and effectiveness in dealing with higher echelons, key officials of other agencies, and other functional elements.

MAJOR DUTIES

Serves as MSC Senior expert in economics and social impacts for water and related land resource projects in a USACE Engineering Division, encompassing a large regional area of the

United States, with a number of separate district operating programs within several States including hundreds of thousands of square miles of land and water resources. Manages and provides quality assurance for economic evaluations and social impact assessments performed within the Division and subordinate districts. Based on a comprehensive knowledge of social impact assessment and water resource economic policies and techniques, provides expertise and guidance to key operating officials and counterparts at Division, district, Headquarters and other government agencies and private interests. Provides technical consultation and guidance within and outside the agency.

Major Civil Works projects and actions within the region include both single and multi-objective projects for flood damage reduction, ecosystem restoration, water conservation and supply, hydropower, navigation, coastal and storm damage reduction, water quality and essential emergency response as one or more of the primary outputs. Studies and projects usually have high Congressional interest and often high visibility with the media due to strongly held public opinions on issues such as protection of endangered species, public trade-offs between water for ecosystem restoration of fish and wildlife habitat as opposed to municipal and industrial use, and issues related to the economic efficiency of urban expansion into flood plains. Plans for addressing water and related land resource problems and opportunities involve major Civil Works projects serving the varied needs of the region. Report recommendations cover improvements comprised of multiple integrated features such as dams, roads, bridges, levees, channels, floodwalls, utility relocations, non-structural measures, environmental restoration and mitigation features, recreation facilities, and monitoring programs. Sponsors include the states, counties, cities, ports, and water and flood control districts throughout the Division.

Serves as an expert in national forums on economics and social impacts associated with water and related land resource projects, requiring analysis of a broad base of scientific and technical information to develop economically feasible alternatives to a full array of conflicting and often mutually incompatible planning objectives. Serves on national committees and task forces that address economics and social impact policies, and nation-wide implementation of techniques for analysis.

1. COMMAND AND CONTROL:

- a. Provides technical expertise and guidance on economics and social impact matters to Division leadership, district leadership, Headquarters, other Divisions, other government agencies and private interests. Assists and serves as the principal advisor to the Chief, Planning and Policy Division, Director, Civil Works and Management, the Division Commander, and other Division and district staff on matters pertaining to economics and social impacts.
- b. Establishes overall planning goals and objectives for the Planning and Policy Division and for the districts, consistent with HQUSACE initiatives. Participates in strategic and tactical planning for the Planning and Policy Division and helps to integrate the results of those efforts related to assigned planning activities into each district's planning program and quality control procedures.
- c. Facilitates conferences on water and related land resource planning-related matters attended by Washington-level representatives, including Reconnaissance Review Conferences (RRC), Issue Resolution Conferences (IRC), Alternative Formulation Briefings (AFB), and Feasibility

Review Conferences (FRC). Negotiates the resolution of contentious issues, speaking for the Division Commander. Participates with district and HQUSACE representatives in the preparation of guidance memorandums. Chairs conferences on the behalf of the Chief, Planning and Policy Division.

d. Represents or guides and coaches representation of the Division during the Washington-level review of studies and decision documents, and actively participates in the defense of proposed Civil works studies and projects.

e. Conducts the economic and social impact assessment portions of the district command inspections and provides input to other aspects of the planning portion of district command inspections. Special emphasis will be placed on assuring the correct implementation of quality control procedures for economic evaluations and social impact assessments for water and related land resource studies. Provides written assessments to the Command.

f. Ensures consistent application of economic and social impact guidance issued by HQUSACE, ASA (CW), or other Administration elements. Provides interim guidance pending full policy development or interpretation at the national level. Formulates regional economic procedures and policies within the framework of policy directives issued by higher authority to facilitate planning activities and programs and appropriate documentation and reporting by the districts. For issues not clearly covered by existing regulations, interprets the intent of regulations, policies, or procedures. Based on personal experience, a comprehensive knowledge of economics, knowledge of social impact assessment, research, consultation with other experts in the field, and use of an informed consensus, recommends interpretations that may result in the development of precedents for changes to policy or procedures when approved at higher headquarters. Makes decisions, interpretations, and recommendations that may significantly change the implementation of economic evaluation and social impact assessment throughout the Division.

g. Investigates needs and analyzes the effects of legislation, standards, and policies on economics and social impact assessment, and formulates recommendations for changes in law and policy. Develops, analyzes and recommends policy changes to HQUSACE.

h. Initiates and chairs work groups or facilitates teams to resolve identified problems, evaluate progress on implementation by the districts, identify program deficiencies and develop proposals to ensure that agency objectives and legislative requirements are met.

30%

2. REGIONAL INTERFACE:

a. Maintains contact with representatives of other Corps offices, other Federal and state agencies and interagency committees. Participates in national and regional workshops and conferences in a continuing effort to maintain coordination with all agencies engaged in the economic evaluation and social impact assessment of related water resources development, to minimize duplication of effort, and to achieve maximum effectiveness in overall development of joint actions and activities by the several agencies.

- b. Provides regional interface with Congressional interests, project and study partners and sponsors, and other concerned interests on Corps of Engineers water and related land resource problems and issues. Represents the Corps on issues related to economic evaluation and social impact assessment of water and related land use projects. Facilitates resolution of differences between the Corps and other agencies/interests. Serves as the proponent for regional issues with HQUSACE, other Federal agencies and other regional interests, including sponsors and partners.
- c. Serves as a liaison to Federal and state agencies, consultants, and universities. Coordinates with regional customers and partners to advocate Corps capabilities and present Corps programs or positions.
- d. Provides expert advice to the Division Commander on coordinating economic and social impact matters with HQUSACE, the ASA(CW), other divisions and districts, state agencies, local governments, and other Federal agencies. Represents the Division Commander at regional and national meetings, workshops, committees, professional conferences, inter-agency groups as an authority on the Corps' economic evaluation, for the exchange of information, procedures and other matters related to economics and the development of water resources projects. Prepares and presents papers for presentation within areas of expertise.
- e. Advises HQUSACE on (1) regional trends; (2) needs for and availability of new techniques, information and technology; and (3) needs for training beneficial to economic evaluation and social impact assessment, and the overall planning process.
- f. Serves as a national subject matter expert in several areas of economic evaluation and social impact assessment, as well as in the application of economic policies and procedures to the region. Serves on HQUSACE committees and task forces to establish economic and social impact policies, procedures and guidelines for water and related land resource projects.
- g. Consults with representatives of industry, education, scientific, engineering, environmental, and technological groups to provide for the development of new methodologies in economic evaluation and social impact assessment. Exchanges useful information on progress in the field and plans cooperative activities and integrated approaches to problems.

30%

3. PROGRAM MANAGEMENT:

- a. Provides oversight of the pre-authorization planning program and the post-authorization planning activities, with emphasis on economics and social impacts. Maintains a comprehensive knowledge of planning studies and monitors economic evaluations to determine studies that are likely to provide favorable results and execution. Provides guidance, insight and direction as needed through personal contacts with higher levels of management, and or Division staff as required and as dictated by the situation.
- b. Assists in the development of a framework and strategy for the Division's water resources planning program to comply and be consistent with Corps regulations, legislation and Administration policy and goals. Reviews district budget proposals, assists the Civil Works

Management Division in developing and defending the planning program budget and post-authorization elements of the budget. Provides input in the development of annual budgetary submittals through critical analysis of the proposed plan outputs and impacts. Appraises the economic justification of the improvements and compliance with applicable laws, regulations, policies, and Congressional commitments. Furnishes assistance or data when requested to assist in developing testimony for budget defense. Recommends inclusion of studies and projects in future programs based on assessment of priority outputs and economic justification.

c. Monitors and evaluates district planning program performance and recommends appropriate actions.

d. Provides economic and social impact assessment support to the other elements within the Division. Attends the Division Project Review Board (PRB) on behalf of the Chief, Planning and Policy Division.

10%

4. QUALITY ASSURANCE:

a. Coordinates with, and makes recommendations to, districts on changes in their economic and social impact assessment programs to assure accord with national and regional quality control policy and objectives. Provides Division-wide and district-wide direction for the improvement of the quality control/quality assurance program for economic evaluation, social impact assessment, and related activities based upon audits and assessments made by the Planning and Policy Division. Leads and motivates district staffs in developing a positive attitude towards the quality management process.

b. Provides technical oversight of district water and related land resource planning programs, with emphasis on the performance of economic evaluations and social impact analyses, and integration of these in the plan formulation and environmental evaluation functions. Facilitates preparation of economic analyses that are fully documented, technically correct, procedurally and regulatory sound, and include appropriate consideration of risk and uncertainty. Assures and monitors the districts' quality control programs for economic and social impact studies and the integration of these activities into planning reports and related reports developed by other elements (e.g., engineering, operations, construction, and maintenance elements). Maintains oversight of district independent technical review processes as they pertain to production of water and related land resource planning documents. Participates in interim milestone conferences as a part of the quality assurance process and prepares assessments of the districts' quality control program.

c. Leads district staffs in seeking innovative approaches to enhance efficiency and effectiveness in economic evaluations and social impact assessments. Develops, evaluates and recommends procedures, new analytical methods and techniques, and guidelines for accomplishing the economics and social impacts portions of interdisciplinary planning studies, including baseline assessments, scoping, public participation, economic evaluations, and social impact assessments. Develops regional technical guidance and approves deviations from technical criteria and standards within authority delegated by HQUSACE. Provides oversight and direct assistance to district office staffs for development of technology and methodology for

conducting economic analyses and social impact assessments, to ensure regional consistency and compatibility of analytical methods and findings, and to ensure that the information used to justify water resource projects is sound and well documented and legally defensible.

d. Develops procedures for conducting quality assurance audits and provides technical oversight of economic evaluations and social impact assessments. Participates in the development of the Division's quality management plan. Participates in the review and approval of district quality management plans.

e. Periodically conducts audits of the quality control process. Performs detailed technical review of specific economic evaluations and social impact assessments, as well as the documentation of the independent technical review. Provides direction to improve the independent review process. Planning products are selected based on requirements of the districts, products with unique or experimental methodologies, and those products where there is a history of a high probability of failure. These will normally be the most difficult and complex water and related land resource studies within the program. Assists other technical elements in auditing District products and processes that include economic and social impact aspects.

f. Monitors technical competency of district planning teams for production and review of economic and social impact products, and recommends appropriate action. Assists district staffs in developing high-quality technical review capabilities. Serves as the clearinghouse for inter-district cooperation in assuring fully qualified professional team members to perform high-quality technical review of planning products in the districts.

g. Provides assistance to districts in resolving major technical issues and facilitates resolution of economic and social impact policy issues. Interprets Corps-wide economic and social impact policies; provides guidance and oversees, for quality assurance, the economic evaluation and social impact analysis aspects of studies and projects in the Division. Coordinates extensively with counter-parts at the district, Division and HQUSACE levels, state and local officials, and private interests to develop solutions for contentious technical, legal and policy issues. At the request of a district, performs technical review outside the quality assurance role for the most sensitive, complex or contentious economic and social issues. Performs subject matter research to verify and validate correctness of economic related issues in contention and ensures that a technically sound and viable course of action is pursued by the district in developing solutions that correctly account for all project benefits.

h. Provides oversight in development and any necessary reviews of project management plans, feasibility cost sharing agreements, financial plans and project cost sharing agreements, memoranda of understanding and intergovernmental agreements, in support to the Civil Works Management Division.

j. Monitors customer satisfaction with district planning and associated economic products, and district conduct of planning program elements.

20%

5. TRAINING:

- a. Identifies planning education and training requirements; coordinates development of training with Division and district planning chiefs, HQUSACE, and other Federal agencies.
- b. Serves as a member of national planning task forces. Develops nation-wide proposals, curriculum and policies that are related to planning training. Exchanges initiatives with Headquarters and other divisions.
- c. Develops presentations and workshops related to economics and social impact assessment, especially in those areas that reflect regional policy and technical expertise. Makes presentations and facilitates workshops that are attended by Division and district staff and representatives of the Headquarters, other divisions, agencies, project sponsors and, consultants.
- d. Makes presentations or otherwise participates in agency and professional conferences and workshops. Participates in the development of conference agenda, coordinates with district, Division and HQUSACE staff and organizes, manages, and facilitates individual sessions.
- e. Serves as a mentor to less experienced staff, providing advice on skill and career development and career development opportunities.

10%

Performs other duties as assigned.